



March 4, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Barve,

On behalf of Maryland American Water, I am writing to express our opposition to HB 1328, which would increase the cost to our water utility customers without providing additional benefits.

Maryland American Water has been providing safe, high-quality and reliable drinking water service to homes and businesses in Maryland since the early 1930s. As a water utility regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission, such a fee would be included in cost of service and recoverable in the water rates charged to our customers.

Moreover, giving counties and municipalities the ability to require a fee from State-permitted users of State water resources is inconsistent with existing Maryland policy, specifically Maryland Environmental Code, Section 5-501(a), which states that, "[i]n order to conserve, protect, and use water resources of the State in accordance with the best interests of the people of Maryland, it is the policy of the State to control, so far as feasible, appropriation or use of surface waters and groundwaters of the State."

At Maryland American Water, we realize the unintentional consequences HB 1328 will have on our customers and for the reasons stated above request an **unfavorable** report on House Bill 1328.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry L. Suits".

Barry L. Suits
President, Maryland American Water

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

